

# CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!

City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711

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The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov) [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



06/15/16

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at their regular meeting on June 13, 2016 included a public hearing and subsequent action to adopt a housing Tax Increment Financing district; a public hearing on the proposed annexation of property located at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Broadway Avenue and Gardner Road; adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan the proceeds of which will be used to finance public improvements in the Traverse Green Subdivision; approval for purchase of a replacement ambulance for River's Edge Hospital and Clinic; and approval of a \$25,000 loan to Chabeans LLC (dba Patrick's On Third) for renovation of the restroom facilities at 125 South Third Street.

The next City Council meeting is June 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 507-934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).



**MAKES ME WONDER (BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR TODD PRAFKE)** – *Urban Chickens....*

Wow isn't that a great topic to discuss standing at a tennis meet or a ball game? To be or

not to be... that is the question? People are pretty passionate about it.

While I don't have the right answer for everyone, it's my job to help the Council make a decision. Those elected leaders have the ability and have been authorized by you through an election to decide. How cool is democracy? Where everyone

can chime in and then we decide and whatever the decision we move on.

Now back to chickens... I was standing next to some nice folks who live in town but used to live in another community not dissimilar to Saint Peter. In that town they allowed Urban Chickens. They had Urban Chickens and they said it was a great experience for them. They explained what they did, the finance of it, the learning opportunity they shared with their kids, some of the problems it caused, and the work they put in.

They laughed when they talked about sending the kids out to sell a few eggs to the neighbors and that their cost per dozen was about \$7.00! They also said that every community was not the same and while they were supporters of having Urban Chickens it didn't necessarily mean that if the City allowed them they would do it again.

What I love about this is the discussion...the civil, reasoned discussion and the ability to bring up issues and work towards a solution, even if an easy one or one that makes everyone happy is not likely to be found.

For some this discussion is about Urban Chickens. For me it's about the ability to have a civil discussion on our options and then allow democracy to run its course.

Is it about chickens or democracy for you? It makes me wonder.....

**STREET WORK TO BEGIN** – This summer will be like all the others before and the City's Streets crews will be busy making repairs and improvements to area roadways. From crack sealing, to seal coating, to full depth patching, our crews work very hard to keep Saint Peter roads in tiptop condition.

Work began in earnest on June 13th when City crews began removing asphalt with a milling machine in areas where full depth asphalt patching is required. This work is being done in the same

areas that will see seal coating later this summer. It is done in advance of the seal coating in large areas that have sustained significant damage or deterioration. These areas are generally marked with white paint to define the area to be removed and these marks are already in place and in some areas, the asphalt has already been removed and is waiting for patching. These areas are blocked by traffic cones so drivers are asked to be extra cautious in and around the construction zones.



During the patching work temporary “no parking” restrictions are put in place so that the work can commence on schedule without trying to find vehicle owners to move vehicles off the roadway. City staff will identify which areas will be closed to public parking and will post “no parking” signs 24-hours in advance.

Approximately 220 tons of asphalt is planned for removal at the following locations:

- 1477 Church Street
- 1010 Allison Lane (2 areas)
- 848 North 9th Street
- 426 West Skaro Street
- Skaro and Fair Streets
- 1001 West Madison Street
- 401 North 8th Street
- 304 North 7th Street

For those with questions on this work, please contact the Public Works Department at 507-934-0670.

Later in the summer, crack sealing will be completed and then the seal coating contractor will show up towards the end of summer. Crack sealing is a process where cracks in the roadway are cleared of all debris (using high pressure air) and then a sealant material is placed in the crack before a toilet paper type of material is placed on top of the sealant. This process moves very quickly and parking restrictions should not be necessary in most cases.

Seal coating is done on a 5-8 year rotation throughout the community. The work is done to prevent moisture from seeping under the pavement which causes the surface to deteriorate with cracking and spalling. During seal coating, the roadway is covered in asphaltic oil that is then covered with small red rock. As soon as the rock material is placed, drivers can use the roadway. The rock is left in place for several days before the

excess rock is swept up by the City Streets crew. The seal coat contractor usually comes during August and the work takes several days.

For more information on street repair and maintenance work, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670 or keep an eye on the Hot Sheet for more information as crack sealing and seal coating work is scheduled.

**CITY FLAG POLICY** – Although many people don’t give much thought to flags flying outside of City buildings or in our parks, some residents keep a keen eye on when the flags are flown, or lowered to half-mast. We have begun to receive more and more calls from people questioning why the City’s flags weren’t lowered for one event or another which prompted the City Council to discuss the City’s flag policy at a recent goal session. Let’s begin with some background information on the National Flag Code which was reprinted from the Flag Code website...

*“Previous to Flag Day, June 14, 1923 there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag. It was on this date that the National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference which was attended by representatives of the Army and Navy which had evolved their own procedures and some 66 other national groups. This purpose of providing guidance based on the Army and Navy procedures relating to display and associated questions about the U. S. Flag was adopted by all organizations in attendance.*

*A few minor changes were made a year later during the Flag Day 1924 Conference; however it wasn’t until June 22, 1942 that Congress passed a joint resolution which was amended on December 22, 1942 to become Public Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections (36 U.S.C. 171) Conduct during Playing of the National Anthem, (36 U.S.C. 172) the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Manner of Delivery were included.*

*This code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. While the Code empowers the President of the United States to alter, modify, repeal or prescribe additional rules regarding the Flag, no federal agency has the authority to issue “official” rulings legally binding on civilians or civilian groups. Consequently, different interpretations of various provisions of the Code may continue to be made. The Flag Code may be fairly tested: ‘No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States of America.’ Therefore,*

actions not specifically included in the Code may be deemed acceptable as long as proper respect is shown.”

So that’s the national standards. The City used that Code as the basis for the City’s own policy on when flags will be lowered. The City’s policy is that flags on City buildings and in City owned parks which are able to be lowered (some are in a fixed position), shall be lowered to half-staff under the following conditions:

- When directed by the President of the United States or Governor of the State of Minnesota through an official directive ordering United States flags to fly at half-mast on all buildings (not just state and federal buildings). Most of the time, the order by the President and/or the Governor only applies to state and federal buildings.  
**(\*\*Please note....the City’s flags are currently at half-mast through June 16th by order of both President Obama and Governor Dayton in recognition of the Orlando shooting.)**



- By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the U.S. Government or the governor of a state, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory.
- On the day of a funeral for the line of duty death of a member of the military who is also a Saint Peter native.
- On the day of a funeral for the line of duty death of an active member of the Saint Peter Police Department or Saint Peter Fire Department.
- On May 15th in recognition of Peace Officer’s Memorial Day as required by Federal law.
- On September 11th as required by Federal law.
- On Memorial Day; and
- At such other times as may be designated by resolution of the Saint Peter City Council.

Granted there are many, many more times when our hearts and minds want to recognize someone who has passed away and that’s the problem. Where do you draw the line so that the honor that is implied by lowering the flag is not diluted? While we all recognize the sacrifices made by veterans across Minnesota, it is right that flags in Saint Peter be lowered upon the death of a veteran from

Duluth? There is no right answer, but basing the City’s policy on the National Code and adding recognition for certain Saint Peter natives seems to be a good compromise.

**LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM** – The Saint Peter Public Library is pleased to present the 2016 Summer Reading Program “ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ!”



Young people everywhere share a passion for play. This summer, we will explore sports, games and movement through books, activities, art and more! Every child, whether a sport fan or not, is sure to enjoy this summer’s program!

Check out the calendar of free events posted on the library website, or at the library for a full schedule of events. There is something for everyone! Local athletes, movers and shakers will be guest Storytime readers most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

How does your child participate in the program? Read for 10 days to complete a reading log. Turn it in for a prize. Read 50 days this summer, and you will complete the program! Weekly drawings of completed reading logs will be held for additional prizes!

Children can visit the library to pick up reading logs, play mini-golf in the library, games, story walk, bike helmet fitting and safety, sign up to read with Coco the Therapy Dog and more!

What’s on deck for this summer?

- Happy Pig Day Party
- Big St. Peter Lego Build
- Moo! Story walk
- Half-Pint Horses
- Climb Theatre
- Canvas Art
- Amazing Hoopsters
- Brian the Storyman from England
- Ten Pigs Storywalk
- Reading Marathon
- Battle of the Books
- Family Fort Building
- Game Night

**RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER DESIGNATION**

Recently the Electric Utility of the City of Saint Peter Public Works Department was designated an RP3 Community. RP3 stands for Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) program



which is really a peer-evaluation of a utility's demonstrated proficiency in reliability, safety, work force development, and system improvement initiatives on a national level. The evaluation looks at sound business practices and recognizes utilities who are industry leaders.

The City's Electric Utility strives to meet customer expectations for delivery of dependable public power. The goal of the RP3 designation is to provide a utility with an evaluation tool to see how they are operating by comparing national benchmarks to their performance. In meeting this goal the electrical system and staff are evaluated in the following areas:

- System Improvements – Measures taken to assure electrical system dependability and completing necessary research on possible system improvements. Operating an effective demand side management program while implementing conservation measures. Balancing electric load requirements with the customer needs.
- Reliability – Taking necessary steps and implementing procedures to minimize outages and maintain a high standard of service. Monitoring and protecting infrastructure investments. Working with other public power partners by way of mutual aid agreements and monitoring infrastructure security.
- Safety – How is the utility protecting its employee's and how do those employees' work to ensure the customer has dependable power.
- Workforce Development – What steps are taken to make sure that our work force is educated, a participant in the decision making process, involved within the community, and engaged at work.

After evaluation by the peer group, if the Utility meets the criteria of RP3 the second goal is to receive "national recognition" for the excellent service provided. Acknowledgement of this success with our customers, our community leaders, state and federal regulatory agencies, and members of Congress is shared. Saint Peter received the RP3 designation this month at the American Public Power Association Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held in Minneapolis.

Nationally only 219 public power providers met the criteria for RP3. In Minnesota, there are only 9 power providers meeting the national expectations. The Saint Peter Electric Utility is proud to be one of them.



**GARAGE SALE SIGN REMINDER** - It's that time of year again....garage sale season! The season comes with the usual collection of complaints and questions regarding garage sale signs, so here are the important facts to remember:

- No signs may be attached in any manner to a sign post, regulatory sign, street light, tree or any other City or State owned post, facility, or equipment
- No signs may be posted on any City owned property including rights-of-way and/or City parks. The sole exception to this is Johnson Park...the little triangle park at the intersection of West Broadway and Washington Avenues.
- Signs must not impede the sightlines of drivers.
- The person who puts the sign up is responsible for taking the sign down immediately following a garage sale and for removing signs which become tattered or loose.
- Any signs which violate these guidelines will be taken down by City employees and disposed of without notice.

And as you are scouting out locations of garage sales, please remember to pull over to the curb before writing down addresses for sales to avoid distracted driving. Please don't stop along a yellow painted curb or in the middle of traffic lanes, and be aware of and prevent traffic safety issues. Johnson Park is a particularly dangerous area for vehicles and pedestrians alike when drivers stop or slow down for a look at the garage sale signs. Thanks for your cooperation!

**RECREATIONAL FIRES** - As the temps get warmer more residents become interested in spending time



outdoors during the evening hours and for many of you that means having recreational fires on private property. But before you put match to firewood please note that fires are only allowed if they comply with the City's

guidelines:

- There must be a fireproof fire ring separating the fire from the surrounding area.
- The fire ring cannot be larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- Only dry kindling wood can be burned in the fire ring. This prohibits the use of wood cut or designed for construction or from construction, including furniture, wood with any finish or foreign substance on it, twigs, leaves, green (wet) wood and anything other than wood cut from trees. (And to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash borer, please only use wood from

this area. Transporting wood from other areas could spread the bug and harm our trees.)

- The wood must be entirely within the fire ring.
- Flames cannot be allowed to reach higher than three (3) feet.
- There must be a garden hose connected to a water source within reach of the fire.
- The fire must be tended at all times.
- The fire must be for recreation only.
- The fire cannot be deemed careless in any manner due to strong winds or other circumstances and if the fire is found to be careless in nature, violators will be prosecuted.

By following these guidelines, you and your guests should be able to safely enjoy a recreational fire. This information is also available on the City's website (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreational-fire-standards>) should you need it at a later date. And remember.....in the event of a fire emergency, please dial 911.

## ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD WRECK IT ALL

**SPEAK UP, PUT THE PHONE DOWN -** A young mother of two, killed while on a bike ride with her kids. A teenager, who was starting the first day of

her senior year in high school, crashes and dies while sending a text. These are examples of how distracted driving has changed Minnesota lives in recent years. Throughout the year the Saint Peter Police Department works with other law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Minnesota to conduct extra enforcement on Minnesota roads in an effort to reduce distracted driving, drunk driving and other dangerous behaviors.

The Police Department encourages anyone riding with a distracted driver to speak up and tell them to put the phone down. The result of distracted driving can be devastating as it contributes to one in four crashes, 64 deaths and 234 serious injuries each year in Minnesota.

"We all must do our part to change the behaviors of drivers wanting to text and drive," said Saint Peter Officer Jon Hughes. "Speak up, tell your friends and loved ones to put the phone down before it's too late."

In 2014 in Minnesota distracted driving caused 47 deaths, 7,369 injuries, and 16,900 crashes. But it's not just a Minnesota problem. Nationwide statistics show:

- Drivers in their 20's make up 27% of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes. - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

- During daylight hours, approximately 666,000 drivers are using cell phones or electronic devices while driving. - National Occupant Protection Use Survey
- Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
- 25% of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive. - University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute
- Reaching for a phone, dialing or texting increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times. - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

In Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose or send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

**That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.**

It is also illegal for drivers with only a permit or provisional driver's license to use a cell phone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911.

If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

The Saint Peter Police Department underscores that driver distractions is not specific to a cell phone. It can also include reaching for items, fiddling with radio/music/vehicle controls, eating/drinking, dealing with rowdy passengers, grooming and more.

"At 55 miles per hour, texting and driving is like traveling the length of a football field without looking up," said Officer Hughes. "Make the right choice before you get behind the wheel and put the phone down."

Drivers are encouraged to make the right choices:

- Cell phones — Put the phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach.
- Music and other controls — Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.
- Navigation — Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.
- Eating and drinking — Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.
- Children — Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.
- Passengers — Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with



anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.

Distracted driving education is a component of Minnesota's core traffic safety initiative, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD). A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero

road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes - education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

**CITY MEETING CALENDAR** - This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or visit the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Monday	June 20	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 20	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday	June 22	12:30 p.m.	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 23	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 24	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 27	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 28	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Monday	July 4		LEGAL HOLIDAY – 4TH OF JULY – City offices closed
Tuesday	July 5	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Thursday	July 7	5:30 p.m.	Planning Commission
Monday	July 11	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 12	6:00 p.m.	Library Board Meeting
Monday	July 18	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	July 18	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Friday	July 22	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	July 25	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	July 26	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	July 27	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	July 28	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority